



VOLUME LXXI NUMBER 9

October 2024



**EBARC**  
**Meetings**  
Next meeting: October 11,  
2024



**Unitarian**  
**Universalist**  
**Church**  
**Of Berkeley**  
**Safir Room**  
**1 Lawson Rd.,**  
**Kensington, CA**  
Check your email for Zoom link.

The Executive Committee is currently meeting via Zoom on the Tuesday before the second Friday General Meeting.

Welcome EBARC Members to the tenth edition of the *Blown Fuse* for 2024.

Please plan to join us at the meeting on October 11, 2024, in-person or on the Zoom Link.

**Program: TBD**

Thanks to Mike Camp, KI7FQ for the delicious home-baked Macadamia Nut Cookies and to Karen, KK6ZPM and Jay Fenton, KJ6WSS for the beautiful, tasty pears, apples and squash from their farm brought to the September meeting.

*The Blown Fuse* is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is a service provided as part of membership. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Audrey Nieman W6BBQ  
Deadline for November Issue is October 25, 2024.

## Save the Date!

**PACIFICON<sup>SM</sup>**

**2024**

**October 18-20**

**San Ramon Marriott  
2600 Bishop Drive  
San Ramon, CA 94583**

**ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION  
Ham Radio Convention  
Produced by the Mount Diablo  
Amateur Radio Club**

## President's Message

I found Jim Mark's September talk about QSO Parties stimulating, inspiring as well as fun. I hope you have been able to explore this part of the hobby. I haven't, yet. It is on my to do list, though. Especially since Propagation conditions are so great at the moment. I especially appreciated his disclosure of the fear he overcame to make his first few contacts. Kudos, Jim.

I recently went on my first ocean cruise. To the inner passage area of the Alaska panhandle from San Francisco. My wife and I had more fun than I expected. Much entertainment was offered to guests on board. Alaska and British Columbia are so pretty. The temperatures were perfect, too. We were able to avoid the many temptations to spend a lot of money (Gambling, Luxury (jewelry, watches, fine art). But I did eat far more than I usually do. Fortunately I was able to avoid gaining any weight.

I brought my Kenwood HT along to see what I could hear. Operating a radio on a ship requires getting special permissions. I didn't get those permissions so only used my HT as a receiver. I was able to find signals on 23 frequencies on the 2m band and one frequency on the 70cm band while docked in Prince Rupert, B.C., Canada. Was happy to get to learn how to use the HT better. Being in Hercules prevents me from using it much with the local repeaters.

Pacificon will be happening October 18-20, 2024. I hope you will be able to attend the many sessions being offered.

### Blown Fuse Back Issues

Digital versions of EBARC's The Blown Fuse Newsletter (from 1969 to 2024) are accessible in the Internet Archive with the URL:

<https://archive.org/details/east-bay-arc?sort=title&and%5B%5D=year%3A%5B1969+T+O+2024%5D>

If you encounter a problem but have gotten to the Internet archive just type "East Bay Amateur Radio Club." There appear to be 217 back issues stored there.

## Minutes of the September Meeting

The EBARC General Meeting was held on Friday September 13, 2024 as a hybrid meeting. The in-person meeting occurred at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB) at 1 Lawson Road, Kensington CA 94794-1015, The on-line meeting was held via the Zoom Internet Conferencing application. There were 10 people in person and 12 on zoom. The meeting was called to order by President Todd Teachout W8BIK at 7:02. Board members present were Vice President Howdy Goudey KE6BEE, Treasurer Audrey Nieman W6BBQ, Secretary Jan Kuhl AC5RB. Club members present were Mike Camp KI7FQ, Karen Fenton KK6ZPM, Jay Fenton KJ6WSS, Jeff Miller KJ6RHF. Guests present were Carrie Joy KK6BKR and Martin Rothfield W6MRR. On Zoom were Jerry Michaels K6KOP, Rita Brenden KG6WPN, Tim Eisler KD6EMS, Joe Fisher K5EJL, Ross Talarico W6OGX, Chris Harwood AA6AT, Don Simon NI6A, Robin Mitchell KN6CRP, Lorraine Schnurr KN6CRT, Jim Marks KN6VTC and Aaron Kurth KN6SMS.

The agenda was approved, and introductions around in person and on Zoom.

SECRETARY- Jan posted the draft August Minutes in the Blown Fuse. Motion to accept. MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER-Audrey gave the Treasurer report, which was also posted in the Blown Fuse.

VICE PRESIDENT-Howdy reported that Jim Marks will be giving a presentation about QSO parties this evening. Jim just passed his EXTRA on 9/12/2024.

CONGRATULATIONS! Howdy also said he needs ideas for presentations for future meetings.

PRESIDENT- Todd just returned from trip to Alaska today. Considerations for the Google group are on hold. The documenting of our inventory as to what to keep and what to be sold/disposed of/used is ongoing. Audrey has some hospitality items to be returned from use at the CCCC picnic last week.

OLD BUSINESS- We lost Randy Jenkins KA6BQF last December. Rita Brenden made a donation from Randy and herself to our Club. Rita mentioned that Randy was an enthusiastic Ham and a mentor. He was a fireplug on his activities. He helped by donating several items plus mentoring and providing financial support. Activities he did included being a Public Service Co-Ordinator for bike ride communications, Boy Scout walks, and several other causes. He volunteered with other radio groups in Marin, Berkeley. He assisted in VE examinations. Several members shared memories of working with Randy. He is missed.

BLOWN FUSES- from 1969 to 2023 have been digitally archived. A link to read them was posted in the July 2024 issue. The link will be posted again in our next issue of the Blown Fuse. Todd has been including excerpts of the Blown Fuse issues from 25 and 50 years ago. If there are current or past members who have Blown Fuse issues or EBARC newsletter issues dating from before 1969 please let Todd know. There is likely a rich history between 1947 and 1969 awaiting disclosure.

ANNOUNCEMENTS- Jeff announced on November 9, 2024 there will be a Ham-Cram event. He has helped Stockton Delta Radio Club to run one. Previous ham-crams had a pass rate of about 90%. This one has 95-98% passing. At this point, the event is only for the aspiring Tech licensees. There is a \$20.00 donation, no charge to retest, He also asked for volunteer testers. The class will be from 8:45AM to 4:00PM, test at cost. Contact him for more information. Karen will be sending a flyer out for October/November for the waitlist.

The WA6HAM repeater operates at 145.49. Anyone can monitor these frequencies. Don Simon NI6A has lots of information about how to register and more details.

Jeff announced he is willing to do a CERT class for EBARC. The class is 25 hours total which includes an all-day outside drill. To do the class Jeff is thinking that it would require 8 or so 3-hour sessions.

Classes could occur on a Wednesday or Thursday evening depending on the classroom's availability. The Richmond Fire Department might help as well as El Cerrito CERT and San Pablo.

Todd reported getting an announcement from the next International DX Convention next April 2025.

The conference has reserved blocks of hotel rooms for attendees. Details to be in the next Blown Fuse.

PACIFICON 2024 will be happen October 18—20, 2024 in San Ramon. If you register online before October 1, 2024 the registration fee is \$35.00. At the door registration it is \$40.00. Information is on the internet, the sessions, swap meet, training sessions and manufacturing representatives selling and showing equipment covering the three-day event.

**Regional EXCERCISE**-Howdy said there will be a seven-county exercise simulated situations. There will be nets on links, WA6HAM communication, single points to reach out, HF voice, WinLink. The set date is May 1, 2025. Outreach involvement, Alameda Sherriffs department and county staff to be involved.

CCCC PICNIC-Jan thanked those that attended. There were about 40 people there. Mike Camp won the 50/50 raffle and donated the \$90 back to CCCC for their repeater fund. Thank you Mike Camp F17FQ!

N6ICW SYSTEM- Jeff reported on the repeater system that basically follows I-80 from Oakland to Reno. There are updates on weather and traffic and emergencies. There is a 6:30 AM roundtable, Doc said he has been a long-time listener. There is a Mt. Rose line. On Thursday PM there is a ham swap meet. The frequencies are 147.195 and 145.150, both with PL of 123. There is internet linking available.

BREAK

PROGRAM-Jim Mark KN6VTC was on zoom and had slides and videos of the QSO parties. He got his General license on 9-14-2023 and just got his Extra on 9-12-2024. Congratulations. He told us of his one- year journey; he has 7300 confirmed contacts using 7 different bands.

Meeting adjourned 8:48PM

Respectfully Submitted

Jan Kuhl, Secretary

## Treasurer's Report October 1, 2024

<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$12,587.52</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
<b>9/17 PayPal dues transfer</b>	<b>34.46</b>
<b>9/30 Interest</b>	<b>.10</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>.00</b>
<b>New Balance</b>	<b>\$12,622.08</b>

## PENDING ITEMS

CLUB Station: Still on-hold pending meetings with the UUCB Faith Leader, and Executive Director and/or other UUCB personnel.

### Vacancies:

- Membership, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP
- Blown Fuse Permanent Editor
- Licensed Volunteer Examiners& Testing
- Coordinator Radio Operator License Test Prep
- Instructors Community Support (Sports events, scouting, Maker Faires)
- Program Presenters



## **POTA: Point Reyes National Seashore & Marconi Conference Center State Park**

A brief description of two fun easy activations not far from here.

After searching the POTA app for interesting and challenging spots to activate, I ended up choosing Point Reyes National Seashore (US-0651) and Marconi Conference Center State Historical Park (US-3470).

Reading over activation rules for another trip, Pinnacles National Park (US-0640), I stumbled on the CW tips and it occurred to me; with study and regular practice I could improve the chances of activating a park using CW. Weeks and hours, every morning 5-10 minutes listening to code, then banging it out on not 1 but 2 different keys, it was finally time to go. The doc covered the expected format and brevity of CW POTA contacts. So, I got to work making notes, in CW, of park name, number, exchange, and signal report. Practiced, practiced, and practiced more...

An

email to Maritime Historical Radio Society led to a fun call from Roy H, with lots of good info and history.

[https://docs.pota.app/docs/cw\\_guide.html](https://docs.pota.app/docs/cw_guide.html)

US-0651 Point Reyes National Seashore - <https://pota.app/#/park/US-0651>

July 31, 2024, final vacation of the summer, weeks in the making. US-0651, Point Reyes. It was a beautiful trip! KN6APB and I made our way to Marconi Lodge at US-3470. A morning trip out to Limantour Beach was the plan, and as we rounded the bend, it was a wall of fog. There in the upper horse trailer parking lot, we used a 23' vertical mounted on an old speaker stand, with about 14 radials of various lengths. My "new to me" Icom 706MkIIIG worked like a champ, as did the LiFePO4 20Ah battery.

Setup on 20m because propagation was working against us, and before I knew it, it was almost 1700 and time to eat. Station was rock solid, with contacts from North Pole AK, to an Aeronautical Mobile station to Calgary. Fun times! Easy setup, plenty of space for verticals and many trees for wire antennas. We wrapped that up barely making it in time for dinner at Nicks and some great local seafood.

US-3470 Marconi Conference Center State Park - <https://pota.app/#/park/US-3470>

Back to Marconi lodge, US-3470 for happy hour. Interesting thing about the lodge is, one can operate portable from the room and it counts. It does take some creativity slinging an antenna. Here we used a 30' wire and 9:1 unun, tied to the curtain rod and out the window to a tree. Camo of course. Since the KX3 has a built-in CW decoder, I kept at it for days on QRP. Finally, the third day was a charm, but it took a lot of work.

Luckily, caught all 3 Thursday HF nets on 40/60/80m then worked into the night, slow and steady. Propagation was - uncooperative. UTC day, that's right, starting early in the UTC day, means one can operate for nearly 24 hours. So, the next morning, after making a few from the room, KN6APB and I made our way up the small hill, discreetly (except for the bright beach chairs) setting up portable. Threw that wire in the trees and kept trying. This is the spot, the spot where the original Marconi receiving site circa. 1914 had a long wire antenna stretching off into the hills. When band conditions deteriorated, I switched from SSB to CW, and very slowly made a few more contacts to ensure this was an activation. Alaska, Wyoming, Canada, San Diego... not many but they are in the log.

Hopefully, you'll take away a few bits here; we have close easy access to spectacular parks once inhabited by the Coastal Miwok tribe, trying CW can pay off, and keep getting out there and trying new things... We really are fortunate to live in an area that people come from all over the world to see!

[https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/historyculture/people\\_coastmiwok.htm](https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/historyculture/people_coastmiwok.htm)

73 de AA6AT

#### 25 years ago

The meeting was held at the Albany Senior Center. Monthly rental costs to meet at the Albany Senior Center were reported as being increased from \$40 to \$45. The President's Report included synopsis of successful EBARC exhibits at the Solano Stroll and the El Sobrante Stroll. The CW demonstrations were well received.

The 4Cs/EBARC picnic occurred on the same day as the El Sobrante Stroll.

There was a club station report by Ralph Hall, W6EFD about risks and challenges of the on/off switches between the station Linear Amplifier and the ICOM IC-738 transceiver. Guidance was given to keep the amplifier switch always set TO ON. Amp energizing was to be done by way of the switch in a "Black Box" device. The switch is to be switched on or off as needed (presumably off if the radio is not being

used). It was reported that a user manual was updated and is kept near the devices in a drawer for reference.

An Announcement was made about shutting down the Women's Amateur Roundtable ("WAR") net. It had been in operation for about 4 years. While interest was reasonably high with initially with 20-30 or so woman checking in. The rate had dropped to 2-4, lately. It was hoped that this is announcement was just a Hiatus and the net would return in the future. An announcement would be made in the future when the net returns.

President John Wood reported meeting with the Richmond City Manager. The City Manager indicated a desire to convert the existing Police Department Bldg into an EOC. The Red Cross hoped to occupy space in that building.

Remodel/refurbishment work was being planned.

Raffle ticket sales were going well. About 150 tickets of 200 had been sold. The raffle is a fundraising event. The prize is an ICOM IC-T81A, a four band (6m, 2m, 70cm, 23cm) HT.

EBARC operates a Packet station W6CUS-1 on frequency 145.630 MHz and it is linked to the East Bay LAN (EBAY) on 223.720 MHz.

#### 50 Years ago

The meeting was held at Casa Cerrito on Portola Drive in El Cerrito. The permit to meet there was renewed. Meetings would continue to happen there into 1975.

President Gene Bergman cited a Consumers Report article about CB Radios which were very popular at the time. The article reminded readers that CB Radio is not amateur Radio. The editors recommended using Commercial UHF frequencies, not the Ham Bands for additional CB Band usage, if needed.

The Blown Fuse included a poster for members to distribute at various locations to announce and invite people to attend EBARC meetings. This issue had excerpts from older QST and other publications including an announcement for a General Electric Broadcast Station in Oakland being built in 1924. A two tube 50-watt transmitter was being tested in Berkeley before deployment to somewhere (obscured by hole punch) via steam ship in 1922. Ads for RPM brand receiver and Duck's 256-page catalog and textbook.

The presentation by Phil Frazier and Jim Ruys about antennas and making many DX contacts.



The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone with an amateur radio license. Annual dues are \$35 for individual membership, \$45 for family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to [ebham.office@gmail.com](mailto:ebham.office@gmail.com), contact any EBARC officer, see Web page [www.ebarc.org](http://www.ebarc.org), or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

## 2024 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Todd Teachout, W8BIK, President	510-799-6051
Jan Kuhl, AC5RB, Secretary.....	510-846-3829
Howdy Goudey, KE6BEE, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP / Program Chair	510-684-9097
Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, / Membership Chair	510-682-7938
Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer / Finance Chair	510-682-7938

## 2024 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

<i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor: Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ .....	510-682-7938
W6CUS Trustee Chris Harwood .....	510-332-7383
Webmasters: Chris & Isaac Harwood .....	510-332-7383

## Bay Area Amateur Radio Nets

HF Nets: Add suggestions.

Net	Days	Time	PL	FREQ MHZ
Over the Hill Commuter CCCC	M-F	0710	82.5-	145.110
CCCC 220 Net	Tues	1930	82.5+	224.300
WC EMCOMM Net	Thu	1845	82.5	145.110
CCCC Evening Net	Thu	1930	82.5-	145.110
KARO/ECHO EMCOMM NET	Thu	1900	simplex	146.415
NALCO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	1915	77-	440.900
ORCA Net	Thu	1930	77	146.880
Bay Area EMCOMM Net	SAT	0900	82.5-	145.110
CCCC WC Net	Sat	0915	82.5-	224.300
Bay Area Comm Net	Sat	0930	82.5+	444.275
Cert FL Digi Net	Sat	1000	82.5+	444.275

## HF Net Info

<b>Wednesday Noon Net</b>				
7.284	40m	LSB	Wednesday	12:00 Noon
<b>Bay Area NVIS Net</b>				
3.890	80m	LSB	Saturday	8:00 AM
<b>Daily Nets</b>				
7.2685	40m	LSB	Daily	12:00 PM (Noon)
7.264	40m	LSB	Daily	5.00 PM
3.906	80m	LSB	Daily	6:00 PM
3.975	80m	LSB	Daily	7:00 PM
3.952	80m	LSB	Daily	7:30 PM
14.305	20m	USB	14305DX Net	13:00z
14.345	20m	USB	Family Hour	14-17:00z
21.350	15m	USB	Family Hour	17:30z
7.258	40m	LSB	Midcars	5:30AM-11AM PST

## DX peditions:

**Somalia**, Sept 9-30, 2024. 6O3T Team is comprised of - IV3JPP, IV3DSH, IZ8GCE, IV3ZXQ, IV3AZV, YL3JA. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, Digital modes with a focus on Low Bands and 6m Band. QSL direct, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS.

**Burkina Faso**. Oct 3-Nov 11, 2024. XT2MD Team comprised of I8KHC, IZ4UEZ, IZ2GNQ, DL8JJ, OK2WX, HB9TOC, IU3PMA, F6IRA, YO8PS, DJ5IW. They will operate on HF Bands and EME. QSL via IK2VUC buro or direct.

**Nosy Be Island** (near Madagascar) IOTA Oct 23-Nov 6, 2024 Team comprised of SP9FIH and SP6CIK will be active as 5R8WE and 5R8CI from Andilana. They will operate on 40 - 10m Bands, CW, SSB, FT8, Super Fox. QSL via LOTW, ClubLog OQRS.

**FW7AA Wallis Island**, IOTA Nov 16-29, 2024 Team - Bob, W7YAQ and AI, K7AR. They will operate on HF Bands. QSL via W7YAQ, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS.

**Gambia** Nov 25-29, 2024. Team comprised of EA3NT, EI5GM, EI9FBB, MM0NDX, MM0OKG. They will operate on HF Bands, including 60 and 6m Bands. QSL via EA5GL, LOTW.

**Rotuma Island** (Fiji), IOTA, Nov 15- Dec 4, 2024, 3D2Z team is comprised of W6IZT, W8HC, K4NHW and others.

More DX Peditions info at <https://dxnews.com/dxpeditions/>



# Upcoming Activities

Conventions: Pacificon on October 18-20 at the San Ramon, Marriott Hotel

Contests		
Event Name	Info/Rules	Time/Date
SKCC Sprint	<a href="https://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/">https://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/</a>	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 25
432 MHz Fall Sprint	<a href="https://www.packratvhf.com/sprints/2024_Fall_Sprint_Rules_Final.pdf">https://www.packratvhf.com/sprints/2024_Fall_Sprint_Rules_Final.pdf</a>	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 25
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	<a href="https://www.cqwwrtty.com/">https://www.cqwwrtty.com/</a>	0000Z, Sep 28 to 2400Z, Sep 29
Maine QSO Party	<a href="http://www.ws1sm.com/MEQP.html">http://www.ws1sm.com/MEQP.html</a>	1200Z, Sep 28 to 1200Z, Sep 29
AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	<a href="https://antiquewireless.org/homepage/am-qso-party-details/">https://antiquewireless.org/homepage/am-qso-party-details/</a>	2000Z, Sep 28 to 2400Z, Sep 29
QCX Challenge	<a href="http://www.qrp-labs.com/party.html">http://www.qrp-labs.com/party.html</a>	0300Z-0400Z, Oct 1
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	<a href="https://qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20/">https://qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20/</a>	0000Z-0100Z, Oct 3 and 0200Z-0300Z, Oct 4
Collegiate QSO Party	<a href="https://collegiateqsoparty.com">https://collegiateqsoparty.com</a>	0000Z, Oct 5 to 2359Z, Oct 6
California QSO Party	<a href="https://www.cqp.org/Rules.html">https://www.cqp.org/Rules.html</a>	1600Z, Oct 5 to 2200Z, Oct 6
Nevada QSO Party	<a href="http://nvqso.com/contest-rules/">http://nvqso.com/contest-rules/</a>	0300Z, Oct 12 to 2100Z, Oct 13
Classic Exchange, Phone	<a href="http://www.classicexchange.org/">http://www.classicexchange.org/</a>	1300Z, Oct 13 to 0700Z, Oct 14 and 1300Z, Oct 15 to 0700Z, Oct 16
New York QSO Party	<a href="https://www.nyqp.org/">https://www.nyqp.org/</a>	1400Z, Oct 19 to 0200Z, Oct 20
Illinois QSO Party	<a href="https://w9awe.org/ilqp/">https://w9awe.org/ilqp/</a>	1700Z, Oct 20 to 0100Z, Oct 21
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	<a href="https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm">https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm</a>	0000Z, Oct 26 to 2359Z, Oct 27

More Contest info at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/fivewkcal.html>

And at <https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>